

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: April 22, 2004

I wanted to start off by thanking the members of the City Council for their continued support and positive reception to our Budget Presentation this past week. We are truly blessed in this community with all of the support, and high expectations. As I have said, there have been many folks through the years who have made Unalaska a great place to raise kids. I am pleased with the success of our educational system, and happy we are able to show accountability through our students. I am most appreciative of the hard work of our faculty & staff over the past few years in their curricula development and teaching methodology. Our student population and their needs continue to change and they have done an excellent job in changes needed to deliver services. Our ESL population continues to grow yet there has been no noticeable variation to our test data.

To date, we have received all test results for all grades except the Benchmark scores in grades 3, 6, & 8. These are expected at the end of next week. Parents should have copies of the results and I would encourage all to visit with their child's teacher for interpretation. I am pleased with the results thus far, but I would still remind folks that UCSD has higher expectations than those set by the State. The Adequate Yearly Progress report along with school designators should be announced in August.

With the lack of High Intensity Summer Reading Program funds, we will not have summer school this year. However we are in the process of ordering consumable reading/writing/math workbooks for elementary students with the expectation that parents would have the ability to assist their child on their academics over the summer. We are also looking at options for junior & senior high students as well and we hope to provide some tutorial time for students through parts of the summer.

This is the time of the year I take the opportunity to encourage all students to finish up strong. With the end of the academic year in sight and daylight savings time, it is easy to get distracted and focus on other activities. This is also the time when some students run into a problem with the number of allowed absences, with a concern of losing credit. There is still plenty of learning time left and we all need to encourage our students of all ages to remain focused on our educational goals.

There is only a couple of weeks left of the Legislative Session, as they are scheduled to finish on May 11th. We must continue to send the message of the needs of education and stay vigilant until the very end.